

FBI Investigated Ferrie On Intoxicated Man's Lead

Washington, Feb. 24—(AP)—Documents in the National Archives indicate that a 1963 FBI investigation of David W. Ferrie in connection with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy was based on an imaginative story told by an intoxicated private investigator.

Ferrie, also a private investigator as well as a psychologist and pilot, was found dead in his bed on Wednesday. New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, investigating what he claims was a conspiracy in the assassination, said Ferrie died with secrets about the assassination.

In the Warren Commission report in the National Archives, 19 pages of testimony about Ferrie are open to public scrutiny. About 40 more pages, believed to involve Ferrie but also to deal with FBI techniques and mode of operation, are kept secret.

The open section tells about the FBI investigation.

Result of Study

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents John W. Rice and Anthony E. Gerrets conducted one investigation of Ferrie during the period Nov. 24-29 based on leads provided by a Jack S. Martin, a private investigator, to the New Orleans district attorney's office.

In a signed statement they said:

"Investigation disclosed that information furnished by Jack S. Martin to the effect that David William Ferrie associated with Lee Harvey Oswald at New Orleans and trained Oswald in the use of a rifle with a tele-

scopic lens (sic), also that Ferrie had visited Dallas several weeks prior to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy is without foundation.

"Jack S. Martin, who has the appearance of being an alcoholic, has the reputation locally of furnishing incorrect information to law enforcement officers, attorneys, etc."

Fact and Fancy Mixed

In their report, Rice and Gerrets said Martin told them "he suffers from telephonitis when drinking and that it was during one of his drinking sprees that he telephoned Assistant District Attorney H. S. Kohlman and told him this fantastic story about Ferrie being involved with Lee Harvey Oswald, Mr. Kennedy's assassin.

"He said he had heard on television that Oswald had at one time been active in the Civil Air Patrol and had later heard that Ferrie had been his squadron commander.

"Martin stated that Ferrie was well known to him, that he recalled having seen rifles in Ferrie's home and also recalled Kohlman had written an article on Ferrie and that Ferrie had been a marine and had been with the Civil Air Patrol.

"Martin stated that after turning all these thoughts over in his mind, he had telephoned Kohlman and told his story as though it was based on facts rather than on his imagination.

"In view of the above, this investigation involving William David (sic) Ferrie will be considered closed," the agents wrote.

Bulletin